



Australian Bureau of Statistics

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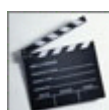
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For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

The Directors cut



THE DIRECTOR'S CUT

WELCOME TO THE LAST ABSTRACT FOR 2009 AND THE FIRST ELECTRONIC ISSUE!

For those that I have not had the pleasure of meeting, I have been acting ACT Regional Director here in the ACT Office since April this year.

I am pleased to announce that we have settled into our new location at ABS House in Belconnen. If you would like to come say hi and visit our new office, our new address is 45 Benjamin Way, Belconnen. Alternatively our postal address is Locked Bag 10, Belconnen, 2617 if you want to drop us a line the old fashioned way. It is with fond memories that we say goodbye to Canberra City, which has been the home of the ACT Office since 1994. I'd like to emphasise that our move away from the ACT Government hub and great coffee(!) will not effect the quality and range of services that we provide to the ACT Government, business and the community.

2009 was a busy and challenging year for the ACT Office and I think it is timely to reflect back on some of the achievements of the past year and to look ahead at what's coming up next year.

Despite reduced staffing and budget uncertainty, the ACT Office accomplished a number of milestones including;

- progressing the IDP in conjunction with the ACT Government
- meeting with all ACT Governments to discuss statistical priorities
- commencing Census engagement with ACT Government, Indigenous Elected Bodies and selected NSW LGAs
- a new and improved In fACT publication featuring articles of local interest.

In 2010, I look forward to progressing the implementation of the IDP further and ramping up

the Census campaign in preparation for the 2011 Census. I also look forward to assisting with improving the ACT statistical priorities and achieving high quality statistics for the ACT and Region.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to working with you in 2010!

We would welcome any feedback about this electronic ABSTRACT. Please email us at act.office@abs.gov.au with any suggestions including contributions for future issues.

Beidar Cho

Acting ACT Regional Director



ACT Government news and events



ACT GOVERNMENT NEWS AND EVENTS

Information in this section was contributed by the ACT Chief Minister's Department.

POPULATION WORKSHOP

The Australia and New Zealand Population Workshop was recently hosted by the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Government. It is an annual event hosted by each Australian state and territory on a rotational basis.

This year the Australian Capital Territory Demographer, Miss Gemma Wood, chaired the event held at ABS House in Canberra on the 12-15 October 2009.

Participants in the workshop included demographers and planners from the ACT, NSW, Vic., Qld, SA, WA, NT, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Statistics New Zealand, the Productivity Commission, Commonwealth Treasury, academics and private sector experts.

The purpose of the workshop was to facilitate exchange of demographic methodology and best practice as well as develop the potential for greater collaboration and exchange between jurisdictions. Through these workshops it is envisaged that the quality of demographic information produced across Australia and New Zealand will be improved.

Projections of the level, characteristics and location of the ACT's future population are fundamental to quality policy development and informed decision making by government and by the community. Demographic studies and population projections provide the basis for assessing future requirements for residential and commercial land, housing, public utilities, and the provision of an array of services.

Expert speakers presented on topics including overseas migration, internal migration, household projections, fertility and microsimulation techniques. Officers from the ABS led workshops on the 2011 Census, the Survey of Income and Housing and the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard.

Information shared at this workshop will be utilised by the ACT Government in future demographic research and modelling. Greater collaboration with other jurisdictions and the Federal Government will also be a focus in future demographic work.



Census information, 2011 updates



GEARING UP...

Here at the ABS ACT Regional office we are gearing up for the 2011 Census with a number of initiatives underway.

On 8 September 2009 we participated in a half day workshop organised by the Chief Minister's Department on Indigenous data. We spoke about the importance of identifying as Indigenous on the ABS Census as well as other ABS surveys and the different forms the question might take. We also presented some statistics on the ACT Indigenous population taken from the 2006 Census. Further presentations are planned in the coming months with various sections of the ACT Indigenous community as part of our goal to reduce the non-response rate to the Indigenous question on the Census. There were 3,873 persons who identified as Indigenous in the 2006 Census and this figure has been greatly debated by various groups within the community. The ABS is working towards the most accurate count possible for the 2011 Census and the assistance of the ACT community is critical to this goal.

There are also plans to run presentations for the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse community (CALD) in the ACT in the near future. These will focus on the importance of identifying country of birth, language spoken at home and proficiency in English on the Census form as well as showcasing some ACT statistics on the CALD community in the regions. In the 2006 Census, 27% of people in the ACT put a country other than Australia as their country of birth and 19% recorded that they spoke a language other than English at home.

In the next 6 months, we also hope to make contact with organisations working with other significant groups within our community including the homeless, university students, military personnel and people living in 'gated' or 'secure access' apartments.

In parallel to these activities, we have also commenced our Workload Design process. In this process the ABS seeks to ascertain new or changing housing developments in the ACT and the surrounding regions in order to recruit the optimum number of collectors for the Census 2011. This involves looking at new development plans and building approvals and 'parcelling' these areas up into 'Collector Districts' ready for collectors to hand out Census forms. Occasionally it means getting in a car and physically counting new buildings so look out for us on the road!

We are greatly assisted in this by ACT Planning and Land Authority and the regional councils who provide us with local maps and plans for new developments.

If you would like any information or would like us to come and talk to your group or community organisation, please send an email to mariette.oconnell@abs.gov.au.

Census information, TableBuilder



CENSUS INFORMATION TABLEBUILDER

AVAILABLE NOW!

The ABS is pleased to announce the release of TableBuilder, a new online tool that allows you to create your own 2006 Census tables by accessing all variables contained in the Census Output Record File including age, education, housing, income, transport, religion, ethnicity, occupation, family composition and more for all ABS geographic areas.

TableBuilder is designed to provide you with the highest degree of freedom in selecting and combining data items from the Census. You can access data for areas as small as a Collection District (approximately 225 households) or as large as an entire state or territory or all of Australia. TableBuilder also allows you the freedom to select and combine areas and data that interest you by creating your own customised geographic areas or custom data groups.

In TableBuilder you start with a blank table and then select Census variables to cross-tabulate to produce small to very large tables. Smaller tables may be exported or viewed as a graph or a thematic map within TableBuilder. Larger tables can be constructed, previewed, and submitted; the results can then be downloaded directly to your computer for further

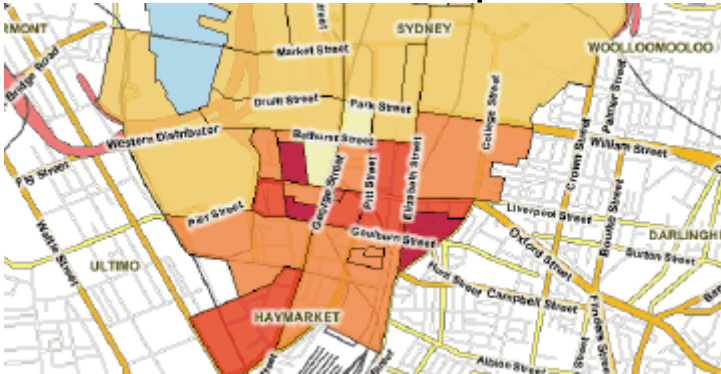
interrogation without the need to view the data in your web browser. You can make tables with up to 5 million cells in TableBuilder, quickly and easily!

The tables, graphs and maps created in TableBuilder can be downloaded in a variety of formats. Tables can also be saved within the product so they can be retrieved in future sessions.

TableBuilder Table

CITP Australian Citizenship ⓘⓂⒸ		Australian		
CPRF Count of Persons in Family ⓘⓂⒸ		2 persons	3 persons	4 persons
Statistical Division (SD) ⬆⬇⬆⬇ⓂⒸ	STRD Dwelling Structure ⬆⬇⬆⬇ⓂⒸ	⬆⬇	⬆⬇	⬆⬇
Sydney	Flat Unit or Apartment	154,539	78,701	55,041
	Separate house	497,927	458,519	704,941
...	Flat Unit or Apartment	81,270	31,163	18,891

TableBuilder Map



Access to 2006 Census data in TableBuilder is available by subscription for the one off price of \$1655.

More details on the functionality of TableBuilder can be obtained from the ABS website or by contacting the Census Products and Services team (census.software@abs.gov.au).

TableBuilder has been jointly developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and Space-Time Research Pty Ltd.

Australian Social Trends



AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

THE NEW EDITION

The ABS released the latest edition of the [Australian Social Trends](#) (cat. no. 4102.0) on 24 September 2009. The publication draws together a wide range of statistics from the ABS and other official sources to provide a picture of Australian society and how it is changing over time.

The latest edition features five articles:

- Expanding links with China and India
- Children who are overweight or obese
- Carers and employment
- People with more than one job
- Work, life and family balance

The September issue also includes the release of national and state summary tables presenting the key statistics for the Health and Economic resources chapters.

The release shows that:

In 2008, the average weekly total cash earnings, for all employees in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), was \$1,138, an increase of around \$400 (or 55%) over the ten years since 1998. However, overall inflation in the ACT increased by 35% over the same period, leaving around 15% real growth in earnings.

Around 12% of people in the ACT were receiving Government pensions and allowances as their main source of household income in 2007-08, the lowest of any state/territory. Wages and salaries accounted for almost 71% of household income.

In 2007, the average life expectancy at birth, for males was around 80 years, the highest of all states/territories, while for females it was around 84 years, similar to the national average.

Males living in the ACT have the lowest rate of deaths from lung cancer, 41 per 100,000 (compared with 47, per 100,000 for Australia), while females have a higher rate of breast cancer deaths, 29 per 100,000, compared with the national average of 23 per 100,000.

In 2008, more males, aged 15 years and over, were overweight or obese (58%) compared with females (44%) while a higher percentage of girls, aged 15 years or over, were sedentary or involved in low level exercise (75%) compared with 63% of males.

Environmental views and behaviour



ENVIRONMENTAL VIEWS AND BEHAVIOUR

FINDINGS FROM NEW ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY

The ABS recently released data from the [Environmental Views and Behaviour](#), 2007-08,

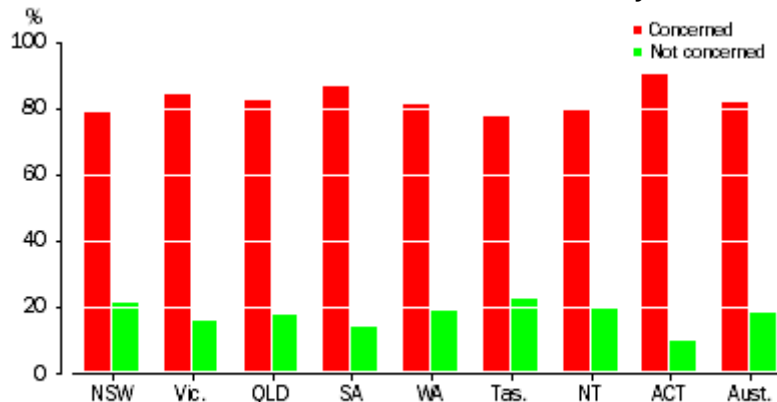
(cat. no. 4626.0.55.001) that collected information on environmental concerns, personal energy and water use, waste collection and disposal and environmental involvement.

The survey found that:

- People in the ACT were the most concerned about the environment (90%) of any state or territory in Australia.
- ACT residents were also the most concerned about specific environmental issues, including water shortages (95% were concerned) and climate change (81% were concerned).
- More than a third of people in the ACT (34%) reported that their personal electricity use had decreased because they had purchased and/or used energy efficient electrical appliances.
- Nearly a third of ACT residents (30%) reported that their personal water use had decreased because they used recycled or grey water.
- More than nine out of ten (93%) of people living in the ACT sorted recyclable from non-recyclable waste all or most of the time.
- More people in the ACT also used green or reusable bags when grocery shopping (50%) compared to the rest of Australia (41%).
- ACT residents were the most likely to donate money to help the environment (18%) compared to the Australian average of 14%.

For further information please contact Kay Barney on (02) 6252 6766 or email: k.barney@abs.gov.au

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, Whether concerned about any environmental problems



Source: Environmental Views and Behaviour (cat. no. 4626.55.001)

Energy Use and Conservation 2011 survey review

ABS runs an annual Environmental Household survey that focuses on environmental behaviour and practices of Australian households. Three major themes rotate each year: energy use and conservation; waste management and transport use; and water use and conservation.

The theme for March 2011 is Energy Use and Conservation and the results of the survey will be published later in the year through the ABS publication Environmental Issues: Energy Use and Conservation (cat. no. 4602.0.55.001).

A year prior to each survey, the ABS conducts a user consultation to review and update the variables in the survey. If you would like to participate in the consultation for the energy use

and conservation survey, please contact Fiona Clarke on (02) 6252 5180 or email: fiona.j.clarke@abs.gov.au

How well do you know the ACT?



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE ACT?

QUIZ QUESTIONS

1. Name Canberra's sister city relationships?
2. How many wineries in the Canberra District have cellar doors?
3. What was the name of the American architect who won the contest to design Canberra?
4. What is the National Science and Technology Centre better known as?
5. The Memorial Water Jet, which shoots a column of water 147m into the air by the side of Lake Burley Griffin, is named after which famous explorer?

For answers to the quiz go to [How to subscribe](#)

ABS ACT statistical training program



ABS ACT STATISTICAL TRAINING PROGRAM

DEVELOP YOUR STATISTICAL SKILLS

Each office of the ABS offers practical, informative and relevant training to help you develop your statistical skills. These courses may also be tailored to suit your particular needs or additional programs can be developed as required for presentations at your own locality. The next scheduled courses for the ACT are:

Valuing Australia's Environment

Overview: At the completion of this course participants will be able to:

- understand the frameworks that underpin environmental accounting;
- distinguish the various types of environmental accounts and what they measure;
- understand the relative benefits of environmental accounting;

- develop a basic understanding of the processes, frameworks and classifications involved in compiling environmental accounts; and
- understand the various uses and users of environmental accounts.

Is this course for me? The course would be of interest to anyone requiring an overview of environmental statistics and their use; anyone who is new to environment and natural resource statistics; and/or anyone working in the field of environmental accounting or national accounts.

Date: 17 February 2010

Cost: \$450 (inc. GST) per person

Turning Data Into Information

Overview: This two-day course is intended to provide skills in interpreting, communicating and displaying data clearly and effectively. Participants will gain skills in transforming data into meaningful written information, particularly in respect to social policy issues. At the completion of this course participants will be able to:

- understand how the collection and compilation of data affects their usefulness, quality and relevance;
- communicate results and prepare written reports;
- construct good tables and graphs; and
- recognise possible pitfalls in analysis.

Is this course for me? This course will be most beneficial to people who need to use data to produce reports or social commentary, or people who are involved with monitoring and evaluation in a social context.

Dates: 18 - 19 February 2010

Cost: \$750 (inc. GST) per person

Making Quality Informed Decisions

Overview: Need to introduce some quality into your statistical decision making?

This one-day course introduces the concept of 'holistic quality' through the use of a data quality framework. The framework ensures that users of statistics are able to assess whether the statistics are fit for their intended use. This course will provide participants with an increased understanding of:

- how to set up a quality framework;
- risk management in making statistical decisions;
- how to assess datasets in the context of data need; and
- using information on data quality to make better informed decisions.

Is this course for me? This course would be useful for anyone who uses statistics in decision making, or is involved in producing statistics and wants to ensure that statistics are

used appropriately.

Date: 24 February 2010

Cost: \$450 (inc. GST) per person

Using ABS Databricks in SuperTABLE

Overview: The ABS web site has large datasets that can be downloaded for free. This course will teach participants how to access these datasets in SuperTABLE format to create tables that meet their organisation's information needs. Through a combination of theoretical instruction and computer-based exercises, participants will learn how to use the free SuperTABLE software.

Is this course for me? This course is suitable for people who have little or no experience in the use of SuperTABLE. Participants should have attended an ABS Web Site seminar or be confident ABS web site users.

Date: 17 March 2010

Cost: \$300 (inc. GST) per person (half day course)

Analysing Survey Data Made Simple

Overview: This two-day computer-based course develops practical skills in basic statistical and graphical data analysis techniques using Microsoft Excel. It aims to equip participants with the skills to:

- identify the steps involved in data analysis;
- summarise and display survey data in graphical and tabular form;
- find simple relationships in survey data; and
- test for statistically significant differences between survey results.

Is this course for me? This course is designed for people with limited training and exposure to statistical analysis who need to learn how to analyse and describe data that have been collected in surveys. A mathematical background is beneficial but not essential. Previous experience using spreadsheets is recommended.

Date: 23 - 24 March 2010

Cost: \$750 (inc. GST) per person

Further details of training courses and registrations forms can be found on the [ABS Training home page](#).

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Disclaimer

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Quiz answers:

1. Nara, Japan; Beijing, China
2. The Canberra District has 35 wineries with cellar doors and about 100 vineyards.
3. Walter Burley Griffin. The City's centrepiece Lake Burley Griffin is named after him.
4. Questacon
5. Captain James Cook

Have your say



HAVE YOUR SAY

CALL FOR FEEDBACK

We would like to hear from you if you have any feedback on the content of the newsletter or suggestions for how it may be improved.

Feedback can be directed to the ABS ACT Regional office.

Telephone: 6525 8900

Fax: 6247 2389

Email: act.office@abs.gov.au

ABS National Information Referral Service (NIRS)

NIRS is the first point of contact for all your statistical and publication enquiries

Telephone: 1300 135 070

Fax: 1300 135 211

Email: client.services@abs.gov.au

About this Release

ABSTRACT - Statistical News: Australian Capital Territory provides new and relevant information about survey developments, information and training sessions, user consultations, major changes to the statistical program, state/territory data releases and significant ABS data releases.

Explanatory Notes

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

The following symbols and abbreviations are used in this publication:

CMD	Chief Minister's Department
IDP	Information Development Plan
IDSC	Information Development Steering Committee

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